Summary of Provincial/Territorial/First Nations Initiatives Under the National Child Benefit 1999-2000

Through the National Child Benefit, Canada's federal, provincial/territorial governments and First Nations share a commitment to help children in low-income families get off to a good start in life. Each is implementing new or enhanced strategies to ensure that all children benefit from the many opportunities this country has to offer.

The National Child Benefit represents a new approach whereby the Government of Canada is increasing its role in providing direct income support through the tax system, and provinces, territories and First Nations concentrate on providing social and labour market supports and services to families with children.

The Government of Canada is increasing the income support it provides to low-income families. In July 1998, with the implementation of the National Child Benefit, the federal government increased the Canada Child Tax Benefit by $850 million. A second federal investment of $850 million is being implemented over the next two years with $425 million being added to the Canada Child Tax Benefit in July 1999 and another $425 million added in July 2000. This second federal investment increases the amount of benefits paid to families and the number of families with children receiving the benefit.

Provinces, territories and First Nations are providing enhanced services and supports tailored to low-income families. To reduce barriers to leaving social assistance, provinces, territories and First Nations adjust social assistance payments by, at maximum, the amount of the federal increase to the Canada Child Tax Benefit and reinvest these funds in programs and services for low-income families. Some provinces, territories and First Nations are enhancing their National Child Benefit reinvestment initiatives with additional investments of their own funds. The flexibility of the National Child Benefit initiative allows provinces, territories and First Nations to create or enhance programs that most appropriately meet the needs and priorities of their local communities.

In 1998-99, provinces, territories and First Nations estimated that approximately $305 million would be available for National Child Benefit initiatives. Provinces, territories and First Nations are estimating that approximately $500 million will be spent on National Child Benefit initiatives in 1999-2000. These figures include funding made available as a result of adjustments to social assistance as well as additional investments of provincial and territorial funds in National Child Benefit initiatives.

The design of the National Child Benefit recognizes that by making more income and other benefits and services available outside the welfare system for families with children, many low-income families will find it easier to support their children while in the labour force.

For more information on National Child Benefit initiatives, contact the provincial/territorial office responsible for income support/social services in the appropriate jurisdiction or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Estimated Provincial/Territorial and First Nations Initiatives: Reinvestment Funds and Total NCB Initiatives by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction *	FY1999-2000 ($millions)	
	Reinvestment Funds[1]	Total Initiatives[2] (Reinvest+Invest)
British Columbia	121.3	121.3
Alberta	28.3	28.3
Saskatchewan	19.5	47.4
Manitoba	18.0	27.0
Ontario	175.0	175.0
New Brunswick #	0.0	6.4
Nova Scotia	19.9	19.9
Prince Edward Island	1.5	1.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.3	17.0
Yukon	0.2	0.7
Northwest Territories	0.8	2.1
Nunavut	1.6	2.3
First Nations	43.5	51.6

TOTAL	**432.8**	**500.5**

Summary of Provincial/Territorial and First Nations NCB Initiatives, by Program Area, for Canada 1999-2000

Program Area	FY1999-2000 Initiative ($millions)	Jurisdictions
Child benefits and earned income supplements	154.4	British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
Child/day care	172.4	British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador
Supplementary Health Benefits	20.5	Alberta, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon
Early Childhood Services and Children-at-Risk Services	49.6	British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
Other	103.6	British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, First Nations
Total	**500.5**	

1. Reinvestment funds represent the adjustments made to provincial/territorial social assistance or child benefit payments for each participating jurisdiction. These funds are then reinvested in programs/services/benefits for low-income families with children. Investment funds represent additional provincial/territorial funds directed towards NCB initiatives.

2. Total initiatives represent the total funding allocated to NCB initiatives for each jurisdiction, i.e. reinvestment funds + investment funds = total initiatives.

* Figures for Quebec are not included.

New Brunswick did not have a reinvestment envelope. However, New Brunswick invested $6.4 million in NCB initiatives in 1999-00.

+ Additional information on these investments can be found in the one-page descriptions that follow for each jurisdiction.

---

1. The Government of Quebec has stated that it agrees with the basic principles of the National Child Quebec, however, has not taken part in the initiative because it wishes to assume control of income support for the children of Quebec. Throughout this update, references to joint federal/provincial/territorial positions do not include Quebec.
2. Reinvestment figures are estimated amounts. Provinces and territories are developing estimates based on the results of the first year of implementation of the National Child Benefit and on current assumptions about social assistance caseloads. Figures reflect potential savings in social assistance that correspond with increased benefits received by families through the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB). These figures may also include revenues from the increase in the Children's Special Allowance and payment, where applicable, for transitional costs due to the incorporation of the Working Income Supplement into the CCTB. They do not include any further increases to the CCTB beyond the July 1999 increases.
3. NCB initiatives include programs funded from recoveries generated as a result of CCTB increases ("reinvestments") as well as from additional provincial/territorial sources ("investments").

Library | *Previous* | *François*

British Columbia

As part of its commitment to the success of the National Child Benefit, British Columbia reinvested $60 million dollars in 1998-99 (estimated at $80 million on a full fiscal year basis) in programs that reduce the depth of child poverty and encourage youth and parents to find jobs and remain employed. BC will continue this effort in the second year of the National Child Benefit. In 1999-2000 British Columbia will have an additional $41.25 million available for reinvestments, for a total reinvestment envelope of 121.25 million.

Between July 1996 and July 1998, BC already invested over $860 million in three major, child-centered programs: the BC Family Bonus, which was one of the models for the National Child Benefit; Healthy Kids; and enhancements to child care subsidies. With implementation of the National Child Benefit in July 1998, BC reinvested federal funding in programs that reduce the depth of child poverty, ease the transition from welfare to work; and promote attachment to the labour market.

British Columbia's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)
Child Care/Day Care	6.00	5.00
Supported Child Care – Special Needs		
Early Childhood/Children-at-Risk Services	1.50	2.00
Building Blocks	0.75	1.00
FosterCare 2000	1.87	4.50
Youth Initiatives	0.75	1.00
Safe Schools	–	3.00
Aboriginal Strategy	–	10.95
Family Support Program	–	3.15
Youth Alcohol and Drug Strategy		
Child Benefit / Employment Income Supplements		65.00

	BC Earned Income Benefit	48.75	12.85
	Transition to Work Benefits for Families	–	7.50
	BC Family Bonus (increase)	–	
Other		0.38	0.50
	Youth Community Action Program	–	4.80
	Education Support for Families		
Total		60.00	121.25

Alberta

Alberta's NCB initiatives for 1999-2000 are estimated to cost approximately $28 million, compared to about $13 million in 1998-99. The 1999-2000 allocation includes a portion (about $3 million) of reinvestment funds not used in 1998-99.

As part of the National Child Benefit initiative, in 1998 Alberta launched the Alberta Child Health Benefit that provides coverage for prescription drugs, optical and dental services, emergency ambulance and diabetic supplies to children in low-income families. The Alberta Child Health Benefit experienced a lower than predicted enrolment in 1998. Therefore, some adjustments were made to the plan in January of 1999, eliminating co-payments. Even with these changes, the 1998-99 fiscal year ended with less spending on this program than expected. The plan further expanded in May 1999, making it sensitive to family size. For 1999-2000, $12.8 million is allocated to the Alberta Child Health Benefit.

In February of 1999, further reinvestment funding under the National Child Benefit was used to increase shelter benefits for families on welfare. About $8 million will be used in 1999-2000 to continue funding this increase for the full year. To launch the Children involved with Prostitution initiative last year, $600,000 of the National Child Benefit reinvestment funds were used. The same amount will be used again this year for this purpose.

Under the National Child Benefit, Alberta extended the income qualification levels for child care subsidies. More low-income families were eligible to have their child care fees fully or partially subsidized. These new levels will continue to be funded this year and a minimum parent fee of $40 per month was eliminated as of April 1, 1999. Total child care subsidy reinvestment will require about $6.9 million in 1999-2000.

Alberta's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)

Health Benefits Alberta Child Health Benefits*	3.7	12.8
Child Care/Day Care Child Care Subsidy	1.9	6.9
Other	0.6	0.6
Child Prostitution Initiative	0.7	8.0
Shelter Benefit Increase	6.6	–
Unspent		
Total	13.5	28.3

*Does not include the program of upgrading students on grants: the $1 million in funding for this comes from reducing student assistance grants offsetting part of the NCB Supplement received by students.

Note: $6.6 million originally allocated for the Child Health Benefit remained unspent due to slow start-up of applications. Alberta plans to spend these amounts over the next two years.

Saskatchewan

By the end of 1999/2000 Saskatchewan will have accrued a National Child Benefit reinvestment pool totaling approximately $19.5 million compared to $11.3 million identified for 1998-99. These reinvestment funds, together with redirected provincial funds and an incremental Saskatchewan investment, support a series of major program reforms implemented in July 1998. The cost of these programs in 1999/2000 will total $87 million, of which $28 million is incremental Saskatchewan funding.

Saskatchewan's National Child Benefit programs include the following:

- Saskatchewan Child Benefit;
- Saskatchewan Employment Supplement; and
- Family Health Benefits

These three programs together represent an important step forward in family income security. The Saskatchewan Child Benefit (SCB) is a transitional program, designed to simulate, as far as possible, the income security approach of a relatively mature National Child Benefit. The SCB is delivered for Saskatchewan by Revenue Canada as an integrated payment with federal child benefits. The SCB and the National Child Benefit Supplement together fully replace Saskatchewan's former basic social assistance benefits for children. The new benefit structure extends support for children's needs to low-income working families, thus reducing disincentives to work.

The Saskatchewan Employment Supplement (SES) is an innovative benefit program which is

designed to support work force attachment by helping to offset the child-related costs of working. The benefit is also available to low-income parents with maintenance income, to encourage the establishment and enforcement of maintenance orders. The SES is delivered by a call centre, with streamlined program rules, easy client access, and timely and responsive delivery of benefits.

The third component of new programs is the Family Health Benefits program. This plan extends social assistance-level supplementary health benefits to children in low-income working families. Low-income parents are also eligible for limited supplementary coverage. The purpose of this program is to ensure that the health needs of children in low-income families are met, and that the loss of protection against child health costs is not a deterrent to social assistance parents to take advantage of work opportunities.

These three programs have already had the effect of reducing social assistance reliance among Saskatchewan families. These program reforms may be seen as early steps in a realignment of income security policies which will, over the long-term, bring more and more low-income families back into the economic and social mainstream of Saskatchewan life.

Saskatchewan's NCB Initiatives*	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplement	8.25	14.6
Saskatchewan Child Benefit	2.00	3.5
Saskatchewan Employment Supplement		
Health Benefits	1.00	1.4
Family Health Benefits		
Total	11.25	19.5

* In addition to this reinvestment, the province added $27.9 million in 1998/99 to complete the development of the three Saskatchewan programs. This additional expenditure allowed the removal of the children's basic benefit from the provincial social assistance program in July 1998. It will gradually become part of the province's reinvestment as further federal investments are made in the National Child Benefit Supplement.

Manitoba

In 1998-99, Manitoba budgeted more than $15 million for early intervention and healthy child development programs, which was $5.0 million more than it recovered under the NCB. In 1999-2000, the province has budgeted $27.0 million for programs that help parents find and keep work and ensure that children have the supports they need to grow into healthy youth and adults. This is $9 million more than it will recover under the National Child Benefit.

Manitoba is building on its investments in children and youth by introducing new and enhancing existing programs that are designed to build strong families and strong communities. Provincial investments include:

- ***Child Day Care*** – additional portable and flexible spaces, increased grant funding and more funds for extended-hour care.
- ***Women and Infant Nutrition (WIN)*** - program expansion to provide more lower-income families with access to community-based nutrition programming.
- ***Workforce Attachment*** - additional funding to help people find and keep work, especially single parents on income assistance.
- ***Children's Special Services*** – additional funding to help meet the needs of families with disabled children to help ensure these children can stay at home.
- ***Early Start*** - program expansion to provide additional resources for focused early intervention for young children to increase school readiness.
- ***BabyFirst*** - program expansion to provide services to families living in conditions of risk and emphasize positive parenting, enhanced interaction, improved child health and development.
- ***Adolescent Pregnancy*** - additional programming to help delay pregnancy in adolescents.
- ***Early Literacy*** - expansion of programs that increase the reading and writing proficiency of the lowest-achieving children in Grade 1.
- ***New Children and Youth Initiatives*** - funding for the development and implementation of new programs to encourage healthy child development.

Manitoba's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)
Child Care/Day Care	5.1	10.4
Early Childhood/Children at Risk	0.7	1.1
Early Start	1.9	4.1
Early Literacy	1.7	2.8
BabyFirst	0.3	0.4

Adolescent Pregnancy	1.8	2.8
Women and Infant Nutrition (WIN)	–	0.6
Children's Special Services	–	1.5
New Children and Youth Initiatives		
Other	3.7	3.3
Workforce Attachment*		
Total	15.2	27.0

* Workforce Attachment costs in 1999-2000 decreased due to the reduced need for transitional assistance for families.

Ontario

In 1998-99 Ontario had estimated that $117 million was available for the NCB reinvestment strategy in the province. Ontario's reinvestment funds for 1999-2000 are estimated at approximately $175 million. As social assistance continues to be cost-shared between the province and municipalities, each has a role to play in the Ontario National Child Benefit reinvestment strategy. The provincial portion for 1999-2000 is estimated at approximately $140 million and the municipal portion is estimated to be approximately $35 million.

In 1998, the province created the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families. This program took effect in July 1998 and provides low-to-middle income families a maximum benefit of $1,020 annually for each child under age seven. Families are eligible for benefits if they have work earnings exceeding $5,000; if one parent is working and one stays home to care for their children under age seven; or if they are attending school or training programs and have qualifying child care expenses. The supplement is reduced as incomes rise above $20,000.

The province is proposing to enrich the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families to a maximum annual benefit of $1,100 annually for each child under the age of seven. The enriched benefit will be effective July 1999 .

With the proposed increase of $80 per child per year, spending for the program will be over $200 million to support low- to modest-income working families with young children. Funding for this program consists of $140 million available from the provincial share of National Child Benefit reinvestment funds plus additional provincial funds to make up the balance of the cost of the program.

Ontario municipalities will continue to implement their own initiatives as part of the overall Ontario National Child Benefit reinvestment strategy in ways that meet their local needs and priorities. Examples of these strategies include Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, the Learning Earning and Parenting program, Ontario Works Child Care, employment supports for families with children, and other prevention and early intervention programs. Healthy Babies/Healthy

Children is a prevention and early intervention program that screens all newborns, identifies those at high risk and ensures they receive community services. The Learning, Earning and Parenting program provides supports to help teen parents on social assistance to improve their parenting skills and stay in school.

Ontario will be issuing a separate report in the fall of 1999 to highlight further details of the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families and municipal reinvestment strategies.

Ontario's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)
Provincial Initiative Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families	95.0	140.0
Municipal Initiatives	22.0	35.0
Total	117.0	175.0

New Brunswick

In the Spring of 1997, the New Brunswick government invested over $20.0 million in the New Brunswick Child Tax Benefit and Working Income Supplement. These benefits, which assist approximately 63,000 children in New Brunswick, are delivered on a monthly basis.

During Phase I of the NCB initiative, New Brunswick decided that families on social assistance could retain the full amount of the NCB supplement. In addition, the province invested $2.1 million in provincial dollars to enhance child care initiatives, funding an additional 200+ licensed child care spaces and creating the Alternative Child Care Program. The latter program benefits low income working families who cannot access the licensed child care system. This $2.1 million investment is ongoing.

For Phase II of the NCB, New Brunswick is continuing its investment in families and children. Approximately $6.4 million in new provincial dollars will be invested through the introduction of new programs and through the enhancement of existing ones. Provincial investments include:

- **Provincial Breastfeeding Strategy** -todeliver a provincial breastfeeding strategy for the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in the province.

- **"Healthy Minds" Breakfast Pilot Program** - to address the nutritional needs of students in the elementary school years, a "Healthy Minds" Breakfast Program is being piloted. Funding covers food costs, an operational component, and equipment requirements. The program is designed to provide basic breakfast items to hungry children in a non-stigmatizing environment.

- **Day Care Assistance Program** - further enhancements to increase the number of subsidized child care spaces.

- **Youth Addiction** - to enhance the Youth Addictions Services Program, through the provision of education, prevention and treatment for chemical dependency for children aged 12 to 19 years.

- **Positive Learning Environment** - to invest in services and resources that address the unmet needs of children in a holistic manner to enable them to function in the school environment, thus reducing the risk of early school leaving. Behaviour intervention workers will be hired whose role will be to support both the child and his/her parents.

In addition to these investments, New Brunswick has allocated $11.5 million on programming for children and youth, including new public health nursing positions to effectively and efficiently deliver preventive and promotional health services to young New Brunswickers; child and adolescent psychiatric nursing positions to allow the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit to provide in-patient services year round; new teacher assistants who will help teachers with classroom management and ensure that students in the classroom get the support they need to learn; foster home redesign to recognize the training and experience that foster families have in working with children who have significant challenges; mental health child and adolescent services to enhance treatment and clinical support to address the needs of children and adolescents with serious mental and emotional disorders and child protection services to improve services in order to better respond to child and family needs.

New Brunswick's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY 1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated 1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Care/Day Care	1,500.0	2,200.0
Day Care Assistance Program	600.0	600.0
Alternative Child Care Program		
Early Childhood/Children at Risk		40.0
Provincial Breastfeeding Strategy		
Healthy Minds – Pilot Breakfast Program		303.0
Youth Addiction		275.0
Positive Learning Environment		3,000.0

Total	2,100.0	6,418.0

*New Brunswick has also allocated an additional $11.5M for new and enhanced programs and services benefiting children and youth in 1999-2000.

Prince Edward Island

Through the National Child Benefit, Prince Edward Island will have an estimated $1.5 million available in 1999-2000 to invest in programs and services for lower income families with children. In 1998-99, Prince Edward Island had approximately $850,000 available for reinvestment.

PEI's reinvestments are designed to promote healthy child development and support lower income families in their efforts to participate in the labour force.

The PEI reinvestment strategy will have two major thrusts in 1999-2000:

1. The PEI Child Care Benefit, which was introduced in August 1998, will continue to improve access to affordable child care and increase the levels of available assistance. In 1999-2000, the PEI Child Care Benefit will provide an additional $600,000 in child care subsidies for lower income working families. This NCB initiative has allowed the province to supplement its child care subsidies so that more families can qualify and so that families in the program can receive greater financial assistance. The introduction of the PEI Child Care Benefit has resulted in approximately 100 new families qualifying for child care assistance and approximately 800 families receiving increased child care assistance.
2. The PEI Family Health Benefit was introduced in April 1999 to provide assistance for the purchase of eligible prescription medications by families with children under 18 years of age and annual net incomes of less than $20,000. The supplementary coverage for prescription medications helps to ensure that families do not fall onto social assistance because of the health needs of their children and allows families to leave social assistance without losing all of their child health benefits. A budget of $800,000 has been reserved for the PEI Family Health Benefit in 1999-2000.

The National Child Benefit will also make it possible for PEI to provide approximately $100,000 in increased support for child welfare services in 1999-2000. This funding will assist with the implementation of the Looking After children project as well as other initiatives.

Prince Edward Island's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Care/Day Care	400.0	600.0

PEI Child Care Benefit		
Early Childhood/Children at RiskSpecial Needs Grants	100.0	–
Looking After Children	20.0	50.0
Other Child Welfare Initiatives	30.0	50.0
Health Benefits PEI Family Health Benefit	–	800.0
Other Employment Enhancement and Job Creation Program	200.0	
PEI Institute of Adult and Community Education	100.0	–
		–
Total	850.0	1,500.0

Nova Scotia

In 1998-99, Nova Scotia estimated that $11.2 million would be available for National Child Benefit reinvestments. During 1999-2000, Nova Scotia's reinvestment funds are estimated to amount to $19.9 million. Nova Scotia chose to mount an income supplement program, the Nova Scotia Child Benefit and an array of prevention and early intervention programs, the Healthy Child Development Initiative. The Nova Scotia Child Benefit and the Healthy Child Development Initiative are beginning to make an impact in the lives of low-income families with children. Nova Scotia will use the additional reinvestment funds available in 1999-2000 to enhance these programs.

The Healthy Child Development Initiative includes support to child care programs, early intervention programs, and community-based prevention programs for children at risk. Extensive consultations with community stakeholders about the best ways to invest in these program areas were conducted. Centre-based child care will be expanded by increasing the number of subsidized spaces and providing portable spaces across the province for children with special needs. Early intervention programs will expand to provide services to more pre-school children with special needs. New early intervention programs will be established in two communities and existing programs will be enhanced. Nova Scotia will invest additional resources to augment community-based prevention programs across the province. In the last fiscal year, National Child Benefit reinvestments resulted in a 50% increase in funding for community-based prevention programs over 1997-98.

Nova Scotia's primary reinvestment has been the Nova Scotia Child Benefit. The Nova Scotia Child Benefit is an income support program for low-income families with children, which has evolved since its inception. Originally it was provided to all low-income parents with an annual net income below $16,000. Beginning July 1999, the Nova Scotia Child Benefit was extended to provide benefits to low-income families with an annual net income up to $20,921. The Nova Scotia Child Benefit is phased out gradually for families with net annual incomes between $16,000 and $20,921. The annual cash payment increased by $74 per child in July 1999,

resulting in the provision of $324 for the first child, $242 for the second child and $210 for the third and each additional child in low-income households. Approximately 66,000 children in 39,000 low-income families will benefit from the Nova Scotia Child Benefit this year.

Nova Scotia's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Care/Day Care	562.5	1,105.0
Centre-Based Child Care	187.5	362.5
Family Child Care		
Early Childhood/Children at Risk	168.7	352.5
Early Intervention Programs	750.0	1,255.0
Community-Based Prevention Programs		
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplements	9,533.3	16,800.0
Nova Scotia Child Benefit		
Total	11,202.0	19,875.0

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador funded NCB initiatives during 1998-99 to the amount of $7.8 million, estimated at $10.45 million on a full fiscal year basis. This money funded the establishment of new initiatives as well as the enhancement of existing programs. For 1999/2000, the Province will spend a total of $17.0 million on NCB-eligible programming. Of this amount, $3.3 million comes from NCB recoveries and the rest is provincial funding.

The new initiatives include:

- Family Home Child Care which will allow for the gradual establishment of community-based, non-profit agencies licensed to approve family-based child care homes;
- a certification model for early Childhood Education Co-ordinators and the recruitment of six full time co-ordinators across the province;
- the Post Secondary Educational Support program which provides new funds to help former children in care attend post-secondary educational facilities;
- the expansion of Family Resource Centres which provide services and supports, primarily for children up to six years of age;

- the extended Drug Card Program which provides full prescription drug coverage for families making the transition from social assistance to work;
- the development of community youth networks to provide prevention and intervention services with a focus on youth at risk; and

- Increased child care allowance for families who have to access private child care.

The province is continuing these initiatives for 1999-2000.

The province re-designed the Income Support program with the introduction of the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit (NLCB) in July 1999. The NLCB will help approximately 38,000 children living in Newfoundland and Labrador. This initiative will cost approximately $6.4 million for the fiscal year.

The NLCB helps low-income families, including families receiving social assistance, with the cost of raising children. Families on social assistance will not lose this money even if they start working, so there is an incentive to enter or remain in the workforce.

Because benefits for children are provided outside of the income support program, starting August 1999, social assistance family benefits will be based on the number of adults in the family and the family's living arrangements.

Newfoundland and Labrador's NCB Reinvestments/Initiatives	**Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)**	**Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)**
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplement	–	6,400.0
Child Benefit		
Child Care/Day Care	450.0	600.0
Unlicensed Child Care	487.5	650.0
Family Home Child Care	1,987.5	2,650.0
Child Care Subsidy Program	56.2	75.0
School-Based Infant Care	225.0	300.0
Early Childhood Education Coordinators	618.8	825.0
Additional Child Care Support Services	75.0	100.0
Early Childhood Certification and Training		

Early Childhood/Children at Risk	225.0	400.0
Post Secondary Education and Support Program	862.5	1,150.0
Family Resource Centres		
Health Benefits	750.0	1,000.0
Extended Drug Care Program		
Other	2,100.0	2,800.0
Community Youth Networks		
Total	7,837.5	16,950.0

Northwest Territories

In 1998-99, the Northwest Territories estimated that $1.4 million was available for National Child Benefit reinvestments. The Territories devoted all of its 1998-99 reinvestment funds, supplemented by $1.3 million in new funding, to the Northwest Territories Child Benefit (NWTCB), which includes the Territorial Working Supplement (TWS). In 1999-2000, the Northwest Territories will reinvest approximately $815,000 during Phase 2 of the National Child Benefit. In addition, $1.2 million funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories will be added to the National Child Benefit initiative in 1999-2000, bringing the territorial total to $2.0 million. The Territories' reinvestment plans include the continuation of the NWT Child Benefit (NWTCB) and the Territorial Workers' Supplement (TWS), as well as increased funding for the Healthy Children's Initiative.

The NWTCB is paid to all families with net income of $20,921 or less in the previous year. They receive $330 for each child under age 18 living at home. The TWS is an additional benefit for working families with children under age 18 living at home, who can receive up to $275 for the first child and $75 for the second. To qualify, the family must have earned income of at least $3,750 in the previous year. The benefits are delivered as a combined payment with the Canada Child Tax benefit, through an agreement between the Territories and Revenue Canada. These payments benefited approximately 12,500 children in 5,700 families across the NWT in 1998-99.

The incremental National Child Benefit Supplement reinvestment of $175,000 in 1999-2000, arising from Phase 2 of the initiative, will be invested in the Healthy Children's Initiative, a program which has been offered in the NWT since 1997-98. This funding is expected to benefit an additional 125 children.

The Healthy Children's Initiative is a program which is based on the understanding that the healthy development of children and youth is essential to the future of any society. Community allocations of the funds were established previously and are calculated based on the 0-6 year

old population living in the community, indexed for income, cost-of-living and a population ratio. Communities submit proposals for this funding to deliver programs and services to support children and their families during the early childhood period. Reinvesting the funds in the Healthy Children's Initiative will improve or expand community services such as prenatal nutrition, Well Baby Clinics, parenting skills workshops, enhancement of specialized services, child care/home programs and training, and salary and benefits for early intervention workers. There are a number of children who are at risk for, or are already experiencing, developmental delays.

Northwest Territories NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplements		
NWT Child Benefit (including Territorial Workers' Supplement)	2,700.0	1,880.0
Early Childhood/Children at Risk	–	175.0
Healthy Children's Initiative		
Total	2,700.0	2,055.0

Yukon

In 1998-99, the Yukon estimated that $100,000 was available for National Child Benefit reinvestments. For 1999-2000, the National Child Benefit reinvestments are estimated at $200,000. The Children's Drug and Optical Program assists low- and moderate-income families with the cost of prescription drugs and eye care for children up to 18 years of age. Benefits include prescription drugs, some medical supplies, glasses and eye examinations. Children in low-income families are fully covered; there is a deductible for moderate-income families, based on family income and the number of family members.

The Healthy Families program monitors all newborns at risk and assists their families to provide the care and services needed to reduce the risk. The program aims to help parents access community services, enhance family functioning, promote positive parent-child relationships, promote healthy child growth and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

In addition to the above reinvestment programs, the Yukon will be investing approximately $480,000 in 1999-2000 in a Yukon Child Benefit (YCB). Beginning in October 1999, the YCB will provide tax-free monthly payments to help low- and modest-income families with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. The October 1999 payment will include benefits retroactive to July 1999.

Yukon's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplement Yukon Child Benefit	–	480.0
Health Benefits Children's Drug and Optical Program	20.0	25.0
Early Childhood/Children-at-Risk Services	40.0	–
Children's recreation fund	30.0	–
School food program	20.0	183.0
Healthy Families program		
Total	110.0	688.0

Nunavut

Nunavut will reinvest approximately $1.6 million from adjustments to social assistance plus $760,000 funded by the Government of the Nunavut for a total of $2.3 million in 1999-2000. Nunavut's reinvestment plans include the continuation of the Nunavut Child Benefit (NUCB) and the Territorial Workers' Supplement (TWS), as well as increased funding for the Healthy Children's' Initiative.

The NUCB is paid to all families with net income of $20,921 or less in the previous year. They receive $330 for each child under age 18 living at home. The TWS is an additional benefit for working families with children under age 18 living at home, who can receive up to $275 for the first child and $75 for the second. To qualify, the family must have earned income of at least $3,750 in the previous year. The benefits are delivered as a combined payment with the Canada Child Tax benefit, through an agreement between the Territories and Revenue Canada. The incremental National Child Benefit Supplement reinvestment of $372,000 in 1999-2000, arising from Phase 2 of the initiative, will be invested in the Healthy Children's Initiative, a program which has been offered in the NWT since 1997-98.

The Healthy Children's Initiative is a program which is based on the understanding that the healthy development of children and youth is essential to the future of any society. Community allocations of the funds were established previously and are calculated based on the 0-6 year old population living in the community, indexed for income, cost-of-living and a population ratio. Communities submit proposals for this funding to deliver programs and services to support children and their families during the early childhood period. Reinvesting the funds in the

Healthy Children's Initiative will improve or expand community services such as prenatal nutrition, Well Baby Clinics, parenting skills workshops, enhancement of specialized services, child care/home programs and training, and salary and benefits for early intervention workers. There are a number of children who are at risk for, or are already experiencing, developmental delays.

Nunavut's NCB Initiatives	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ thousands)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ thousands)
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplement Nunavut Child Benefit Territorial Workers' Supplement	See NWT	1,960.0
Early Childhood/Children-at-Risk Services Healthy Children's Initiative		372.0
Total	See NWT	2,332.2

First Nations

In 1999-2000, it is estimated that First Nations that have responsibility for social assistance will have approximately $52 million for National Child Benefit initiatives, an increase of about $22 million over 1998-99.

In the second year of the National Child Benefit initiative, First Nations will continue to determine their own reinvestment initiatives in ways that meet their local needs and priorities. This includes introducing new programs and services for low-income families with children or enhancing the current range of community-based programs. Examples of these strategies include child care, child nutrition, parenting, family services, recreation, youth development, clothing outlets and training and employability skills. The programs are linked by the objectives of the NCB, which aim to prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty and promote attachment to the workforce. The Government of Canada is committed to working with First Nations to ensure that First Nations' children living on reserves benefit like other Canadian children from the National Child Benefit.

First Nation's[1] NCB Initiatives By Region	Estimated FY1998-1999 ($ millions)	Estimated FY1999-2000 ($ millions)
Atlantic[2]	1.0	2.10

Quebec[3]	7.5	8.50
Ontario	2.7	5.30
Manitoba	4.3	8.40
Saskatchewan	4.4	8.60
Alberta	1.7	6.80
British Columbia	2.3	3.40
Yukon	0.2	0.36
Total reinvestment envelope	**24.1**	**43.46**
Additional Investment [4]	6.2	8.10
Total	30.3	51.56

1.Excludes self-governing bands, bands funded under different arrangements in BC, Yukon, and Newfoundland and Labrador, and bands under an Alternative Funding Arrangement and Financial Transfer Agreement in Alberta and BC Funding for social assistance and NCB-related initiatives in the Northwest Territories is provided by the territorial government. These figures are estimates and will be confirmed when First Nations complete their fiscal year end report.
2 Atlantic region excludes the amount of NCB Supplement that was passed on to social assistance families living on reserve in New Brunswick (estimated at $0.8 million in 1998-99).
3 Reinvestment funds in Quebec First Nations are composed of both savings from the introduction of the new provincial Family Allowance program and the National Child Benefit. An additional four months of savings (December 1997 – March 1998) of $642,000 is also available due to these reforms to the income security program in Quebec.
4 In Saskatchewan, in 1998-99, an additional $6.2 million in new funds is available for NCB-related reinvestment initiatives for First Nations families living on reserves.

Library | Previous | Français